

REALLY WANTED?

by Patrick Vercoe

The South 1, The North 2

AS IS OFTEN the case, this type of international trial did nothing to enhance the reputation of the players taking part, all of whom were hoping to catch the eye of England's team-manager, Charles Hughes and the international selection-committee.

For the main part the game consisted of two different sets of individuals, each trying to discover some common code of thought between themselves. After spending some two-thirds of the match trying to discover this common denominator there was precious little football over which the connoisseur could enthuse.

I am continually bemused about the validity of this fixture. Just what is the point of staging such a meeting when the England side, for their next two games, has already been announced?

No matter how impressive a performance is turned in at random by any of the 22 players, Mr. Hughes and his confederates have already predecided who will appear for England. To counterbalance this argument is the theory that it is an honour to appear for the North or South. But who really cares if the North are better than the South at amateur level?

Complaint

It has long been the complaint of leading amateur clubs in the North of England that this country's international squad is dominated by players chosen from Southern clubs. When looking back on this result the North can gain some satisfaction from the knowledge that they defeated a Southern team deep inside their own territory.

The Southern side consisted mainly of a blend of Athenian and Isthmian players. For Wycombe supporters there was the unexpected sight of seeing Ian Rundle being given the opportunity to stake a claim for further representative honours, taking over the left-half position vacated by the injured Julian Lailey. Also, Les Merrick relieved Barry Baker on the substitute's bench and looked particularly splendid in a blue track-suit with 'England' scrawled across the back.

Of the players on view, two have already been capped — one from each side. For the South, Bishop Stortford's fine outside-right prospect, Peter Phillips, who struggled gallantly to bring some poise and guile to his forward-line. Peter Clements, the only other capped player, failed to catch one's constant attention. He has now moved North to Liverpool and was formerly with Hendon.

Without a doubt, the only forward to reach anywhere near international level was Oxford City's Tony Bradbury, who



Marlow defenders leap high to clear a Herne Bay attack during Saturday's 1-1 draw.

MATCH DETAILS

The South: I. Hutley (Dagenham); D. Sargeant (Crawley Town), J. Kerr (Clapton); D. Moore (Dagenham), J. Delaney (Slough), I. Rundle (Wycombe); P. Phillips (Bishop's Stortford), M. Douglass (Peterborough), R. Wilson (Hendon), A. Bradbury (Oxford City), B. Bremner (Wealdstone).

The North: J. Goundrey (Northumberland); S. Braddock (Liverpool), J. Turner (Lancashire); R. Taylor (Cheshire), W. Blenkiron (Durham), G. Ramshaw (Northumberland), M. Lister (Northumberland), P. Clements (Liverpool), E. Dicken (Lancashire), K. Banks (Durham), R. Norris (Nottinghamshire).

Corners: The South 5, the North 4.

Free kicks (conceded): The South 7, the North 8.

Referee: Mr. E. E. McTague (Berks and Bucks F.A.).

best advantage when in possession. phase, went into the lead when Wealdstone's Bernie Bremner took a corner on the left. Bremner took the kick himself. Bradbury timed his run to fection to meet the cross side the six-yard box and with nense power, headed past undry.

Too fond

Shortly afterwards, Bremner, who was too fond of making solo dashes down the left flank went desperately close with a spectacular bicycle-kick which was charged down just three yards from target.

On the stroke of half-time the North were put on level terms by a glorious shot from Norris, which would have been fit to grace the hallowed turf of Wembley, let alone Loakes Park. I doubt whether home-supporters will see a better solo goal this season. Norris, receiving a pass on the edge of the box, dummied deftly and sent the defence the wrong way by letting the ball run through his legs, turn and crack a sizzling drive past the despairing Hutley and into the top left-hand corner.

The North's winner came in the 61st minute when Lister fastened on to a defence splitting pass and retained his composure to slip his shot wide of the advancing Hutley from seven yards.